

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Fiero, Conro, House, (Woodlawn Acres)

and/or common Mon Desir Dining Inn

2. Location

street & number 4615 Hamrick Road _____ not for publication

city, town Central Point _____ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
____ district	____ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	____ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	____ unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational
____ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	____ entertainment
____ object	____ in process	____ yes: restricted	____ government
	____ being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	____ industrial
		____ no	____ military
			____ museum
			____ park
			____ private residence
			____ religious
			____ scientific
			____ transportation
			____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mon Desir Incorporated

street & number 4615 Hamrick Road

city, town Central Point _____ vicinity of state Oregon 97502

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number 8th and Oakdale

city, town Medford _____ state Oregon 97501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Jackson County Hist. Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ☒ no

date 1979 _____ federal ____ state ☒ county ____ local

depository for survey records Southern Oregon Historical Society

city, town Jacksonville _____ state Oregon 97530

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Conro Fiero House, a 1 1/2 story Bungalow/Arts and Crafts Style hybrid designed by the prominent Portland architectural firm of Whitehouse and Foulhoux and completed in 1910, is essentially rectangular in plan with its long, principal facade oriented to the east and Hamrick Road, from which it is set back some 60 to 100' behind an expanse of lawn and a semi-circular driveway.

The front slope of the gable roof breaks over a veranda which extends across the southerly two thirds of the facade and is carried by paired columnar uprights. The entrance, centered in the back wall of the veranda, is partially glazed with many small panes and has one of the sets of three iron strapwork hinges used on several outside doors which are said to have been custom made by Honeyman Hardware of Portland. The front door is flanked by similar doors, one on either side, and such a grouping is repeated on the west elevation. Centered high in the roof slope above the east entrance is a gable-roofed dormer with barge boards and a multi-paned window. Either end section of the facade is dominated by frontal gables with barge boards and overhanging eaves on "exposed" rafter ends. Ground story wall cover is of weatherboards. Second story gable ends are covered with stucco and planking imitating exposed timber framing, or "half-timbering." Purely decorative in nature, the "half-timbering" is applied in a grid pattern embellished by diagonal and s-curve members. Also in keeping with the Arts and Crafts Style, which was based loosely on late medieval English domestic architecture, are the broad brick chimney stack, with its corbelled necking and tapered flue liner, and the windows, both double-hung and casement types, with their many small panes.

There are two wings which extend from either end of the west, or rear facade, and the space between is paved and planted as a private courtyard. The wings were added in compatible frame construction and style between 1965 and 1968. That on the south contains banquet facilities and lounge. That on the north enlarged the kitchen facilities. A well house with battered base walls, deck and railing and square water tank housing with low hipped roof is still intact on the north elevation. Interior finish work and fittings of the main volume of the house are intact and include paneling and plaster in parlor and dining rooms and a floor-to-ceiling brick-fronted chimney piece with segmental-arched fire box on the north wall of the parlor. Bookshelves west of the fireplace were removed at the time kitchen facilities were enlarged to provide access to areas of the house other than the original dining room.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1910

Builder/Architect

Whitehouse and Fouilhoux (attributed)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Conro Fiero House, better known today as Mon Desir Dining Inn, was built in 1910 for the scion of a wealthy Chicago family, one of the Rogue River Valley's successful "pear boom" orchardists. In 1910 Fiero married Grace Andrews, New York actress who worked with producer-director David Belasco. The house, situated on the 140-acre Woodlawn Orchard, was used by the bride when she was not on the stage. In 1914, during one of her sojourns in Southern Oregon, the actress starred in a film entitled "Grace's Visit to the Rogue River Valley," which was used at the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco to promote Jackson County. The design of the house, a bungalow heavily influenced by the English Arts and Crafts Style, is attributed to the noted Portland firm of Whitehouse and Fouilhoux. In the intervening years the house was enlarged slightly at the south end, but its well tower on the north end has remained intact, and the house is well preserved throughout. In 1943, the estate was subdivided and the house began separate use as a restaurant under four successive ownerships. However, orchards still provide the backdrop and setting for the property. The house is significant as one of the outstanding orchard mansions in the county. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association with notable historical figures in the local pear industry.

A. Conro Fiero, son of A. W. Fiero, a wealthy Chicago businessman, came to the Rogue Valley at the turn of the century to become a millionaire. In 1910 Fiero built the headquarters for his landed estate of 140-acres for his bride, Grace Andrews. Their home became the center of the most lavish entertaining with an Eastern flair, new and thrilling to the Southern Oregon community. The guest list of the "Woodlawn Acres" frequently included some of the more famous names of that era, including that of U.S. Ambassador to Spain, Stan Griffis. Fiero was active in the Medford business community, social affairs, and the development of the Rogue Valley fruit industry. By 1917 the Fieros had lost everything of their fruit crops due to freezing temperatures.

Grace Andrews was famous on the New York stage. She rose to stardom under the guidance of David Belasco. Belasco was labeled by the New York Times as "the greatest producer and stage director of his time." Grace was a member of the Andrews Opera Company family of Minnesota. She made her Broadway debut in "Beverly of Grastark" in 1908 on David Belasco's stage. When the opera company was dissolved, the family moved to Rogue Valley, around 1903. The family pursued agricultural interests, but their greatest was in the cultural development of the valley, music and theater.

Miss Andrews met Conro Fiero in 1909 on one of her visits from New York. After their marriage in 1910, she continued with her career, residing in the valley during the off season. It was during one of these visits in 1914 that she starred in a local film "Grace's Visit to the Rogue River Valley." This motion picture was used as a Jackson County promotional film at the 1915 San Francisco Panama-Pacific International Exposition. A copy of the film is now in the collections of the Southern Oregon Historical Society in Jacksonville, Oregon.

The 140 acres remained one property under three different owners until George T. and Lillian E. Ehrheart bought the property in 1943. They bought the six acres with the Fiero House and made the house into a Southern Chicken Dinner Restaurant. Following the Ehrhearts' failure after six months, J. M. Alexander and Julia Gemma Tummers bought the place. Julia made the place into a dining inn and named it "Mon Desir." Julia Tummers' American and European cuisine, made Mon Desir one of the noted dining places between Portland and San Francisco.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Withey, Henry F., and Withey, Elsie Rathburn, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects Deceased (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), 216-217, 654-655.
Jackson County Historical Sites Survey 1979, p. 197-198.
Tape 18, Interview of Grace (Andrews) Fiero by Seth Bullis, June 18, 1963, Accession number 71.11.1, Southern Oregon Historical Society, Jacksonville Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.93 acres

Quadrangle name Medford, Oregon

UMT References

A

1	0
---	---

5	0	8	8	2	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	9	2	1	7	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Conro Fiero House is located in the NW 1/4 Sec.1, T.37S., R.2W., W. M., in Jackson County, Oregon. The legal description is Jackson County Tax Lot 4000.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judy Ann Floyd

organization

date July 28, 1980

street & number 341 Beechwood Drive

telephone 317/773-4122

city or town Noblesville

state Indiana 46060

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6-4-81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 12/9/81

Keeper of the National Register

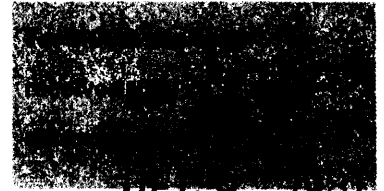
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Fiero Conro House

Item number 8

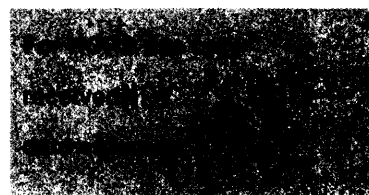
DEC 9 1981
Page 1

Mon Desir has been honored by the Wine Advisory Board of California with one of the three "Superior Wine Service" plaques issued in Oregon. In 1957 Mon Desir listed in Life Magazine as one of the 49 best of American Roadside Inns. Due to ill health in 1966, Julie Tummers sold Mon Desir to Stanley D. and Thomasine E. Smith. The Smiths maintained the dining inn for thirteen years. Mon Desir is currently owned by two Ashland families, Al and Donna Carver, Dan and Linda Jackson, who have incorporated as Mon Desir, Incorporated.

Morris H. Whitehouse (1867-1944), a native of Portland, Oregon, was trained in architecture at MIT and opened his practice in Portland in 1908. In 1909 he formed a partnership with J. Andre Fouilhoux (1879-1945) which continued until 1917. Edgar Lazarus also was a partner in the firm for a time at the outset. Among the firm's major works in Portland were the acclaimed Jacobethan Style University Club (1913), Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club, Jefferson and (old) Lincoln High Schools, and a succession of clubhouses, including those for Waverly, Oswego and Eastmoreland Country Clubs. Whitehouse and Fouilhoux were associate architects on the Portland Civic Auditorium, designed by J. H. Freeland and A. D. Seymour of New York City. During the First World War, Fouilhoux, a native of Paris and a naturalized citizen of the United States, served in the U.S. Army in France. Upon his return to the United States after the Armistice, he remained in New York, where he pursued a distinguished career in partnership with Raymond Hood and William K. Harrison, which included the following projects: Chicago Tribune Building, Rockefeller Center, Clinton Hill Development in Brooklyn, and collaboration in the design of the Trylon and Perisphere, symbols of the 1938 New York World's Fair. Fouilhoux was named a Fellow of the AIA in 1931.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



81

Continuation sheet Conro Fiero House

Item number 9

Page 1

Space, Style, Structure: Building in Northwest America, Oregon Historical Society,
Portland, Oregon, 1974.